

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for extracting information ~~pertaining to products for sale over~~ from the Internet, the method comprising the steps of:

mining ~~information from~~ the Internet to form a database having a hierarchical schema;
receiving text from a user as the exclusive form of user input, wherein the text is descriptive of ~~the~~ information sought;

acquiring a ~~macro-context for the information based on~~ micro-context corresponding to the text;

locating the information that matches the ~~macro-context in a~~ micro-context in the database; and

presenting the information to a user.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein acquiring a micro-context further ~~comprising the step of~~ comprises combining relevant words in the text ~~to form a micro-context representative of the information before the step of acquiring a macro-context for the information.~~

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the ~~step of acquiring a macro-context for the information comprises~~ comparing the micro-context to database comprises a corpus indexed by macro-context ~~to determine the macro-context for the information.~~

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of locating information that matches the ~~macro-context~~ micro-context in a database comprises searching through indices in the database corresponding to the macro-contexts and returning the information linked to indices ~~which correlate to~~ where the macro-contexts correlate to the micro-context.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of presenting the information to a user comprises presenting the information in a format selected by a user, the format being independent of the hierarchical schema of the database, for arranging the information.

26. (original) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of gathering additional information relevant to the text from the Internet.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of tracking a user's navigation through the Internet to develop ~~macro-contexts~~ micro-contexts relevant to a user.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of automatically updating the information periodically after the step of presenting the information to a user.

29-40. (cancelled)

41. (new) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method comprising:
mining to gather and organize information from the Internet to form a database having a
hierarchal schema;

acquiring a textual query from a user;
determining a micro-context corresponding to the textual query;
operating independently from the hierarchal schema to locate a subset of the information
in the database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context; and
presenting the subset to a user.

42. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual
query comprises examining a user's activities on the user's computer to gather information
regarding contexts important to the user.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's
computer comprises tracking a user's navigation through the Internet.

44. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's
computer further comprises reviewing prior Internet searches conducted by the user.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein examining a user's activities on the user's
computer further comprises reviewing the results produced by prior Internet searches conducted
by the user.

46. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form a small, coherent group.

47. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual query comprises tracking a user's navigation through the Internet to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

48. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual query comprises reviewing prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

49. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual query comprises reviewing the results produced by prior Internet searches conducted by the user to gather information regarding contexts important to the user.

50. (new) The method of claim 41, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form a small, coherent group.

51. (new) A method for extracting information from the Internet, the method comprising:
gathering and organizing information from the Internet to form a database having a
schema;
acquiring a textual query from a user;
determining a micro-context corresponding to the textual query by examining a user's
activities on the user's computer to gather information regarding contexts important to the user;
operating independently from the schema to locate a subset of the information in the
database, the subset corresponding to the micro-context;
acquiring from the user a hierarchy of arrangement for the subset of the information; and
presenting to the user the subset of information according to the hierarchy of
arrangement.

52. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein determining a micro-context of the textual
query further comprises assembling selected words from the textual query to form a small,
coherent group.